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Distinctive Characters of Teeth.—Dr. HARRISON ALLEN proposed to distinguish the buccal from the palatal side of human upper molars by the presence of a sulcus upon the latter surfaces and its absence from the former. The bicuspid teeth were found to present crowns having an anterior and posterior limiting ridge upon their grinding surfaces. These ridges are inconstant in the molars, notably upon the posterior edges of their crowns. Upon the anterior edges they, as a rule, are seen, and recall the peculiarity of the similar teeth of *Cynocephalus* and *Semnopithecus*. When a human molar exhibits the antero-palatal cusp united to the antero-buccal cusp by a well-pronounced limiting ridge it was thought to be an instance of reversion of the human to the quadrumanous type.

FEBRUARY 12.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Thirty-one persons present.

The following papers were presented for publication :—

“Notes on North American Caridea in the Museum of the Peabody Academy of Sciences at Salem, Mass.” By J. S. Kingsley

“Additions to Mr. Cooke’s paper on the Valsei of the United States.” By W. C. Stevenson, Jr.

The deaths of George T. Barker, Thomas P. Remington, and Wm. Welsh, members of the Academy, were announced.

FEBRUARY 19.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Thirty-three persons present.

Foliaceous sepals in Hepatica.—Mr. MARTINDALE exhibited a specimen of *Hepatica triloba* which he had collected near the mouth of the Wissahickon Creek, in April, 1877, all the flower stalks of which had produced leaves in the place of sepals similar in shape to those usually produced on the leaf stalks, but only about one-half their size; and then spoke of the causes of this change of condition. He stated that investigators in the study of this branch of the vegetable kingdom had long since attributed any deviation from the normal character as due, not to a want of vitality, but to a superabundance of vitality, and claimed that this specimen was a fair illustration, and a confirmation of that theory, it being the largest specimen he had ever seen. The great

abundance of roots, the presence of a large number of leaves of the preceding year, which had remained attached to the plant throughout the winter, the true leaves of the season just becoming visible, and which appeared to be of greater abundance than those of a former year's growth, all gave evidence of the presence of an unusual amount of vitality. No flowers had been produced at all, at the same time the flower stalks which had produced leaves were exceedingly numerous. This morphologic change gave evidence of still another: as these leaves upon close examination were found to be covered with a fungoid growth of a low type, the tendency of which may have been to dwarf or disturb the full and free exercise of the vital force of the plant.

Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN observed that he was not prepared to say that extra vigorous growth in a plant had any relation to morphological changes in the parts of the inflorescence, but he regarded with great interest the specimen exhibited, because he believed the normal change of leaves to sepals would not have been interfered with but for the presence of the minute fungus. As in the cases which he had in the past brought to the notice of the Academy, where *Euphorbia prostrata* and *Portulaca oleracea* became erect when attacked by an *Æcidium*, he thought the present an illustration that varying phases of nutrition governed form. We know from many observations that interference with nutrition had an influence on morphological changes. The calla (*Richardia Æthiopica*) which under one system of culture produced all leaves, under others had some of them changed to its white spathaceous flowers, and a ringed branch would often cause what would otherwise have been leaves and branches to become flowers and fruit. It was a great point gained to perceive the agent in the change, though the precise law influencing the agent was still obscure.

On Citrine or Yellow Quartz.—Prof. LEIDY made remarks on citrine or yellow quartz with the hope of eliciting more accurate information as to its origin. Cut as a gem it is common, and is sold by the jewellers (almost to the exclusion of the true mineral) for topaz. The cut specimens of citrine occur in all shades, from a pale straw-yellow to the richest orange hue, often with a brown tinge more or less deep. Uncut specimens of the mineral of equal quality in color are rare in mineralogical collections. Pale yellow citrine is derived from many localities, but the best and deeper colored varieties are said to come from Brazil. In the museum of the Academy there is a pebble of pale yellow citrine, about the size of a fist, presented from the Brazilian collection, at the close of the late International Exhibition. In the display of quartzes of the Brazilian collection no darker specimens of the citrine were observed.